

of the Year for 1970. The award was for "Insomnia or the Devil at Large." New Orleans Republican leader and local literary connoisseur, Ben C. Toledano, today said of Webb: "This man is the closest thing we've had to a real literary figure in New Orleans within the avant garde framework within the past 20 years. He is one of the few people we have had in the mainstream of things."

In a letter to the book editor of the New Orleans Item in 1948, Webb wrote, "I long ago adopted New Orleans as my home town and will very shortly be back to finish my second novel there. Its setting is New Orleans and is titled "Don't Leave Me in New Orleans." The title applies to characters, not the city, which I love and always will. It is a story of regeneration." Webb changed the name of this novel to "Go Lieth Down South, Oh Lover," and had nearly finished it when he died. He was a National Endowments for the Arts winner.

At the beginning of his career, he was a grammar school teacher. He also was police reporter for the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the old Cleveland New and was a reporter for the Toronto Star. His short stories and articles were published in many of the nations major magazines. In addition to many avant garde artists, he counted among his friends Ernest Hemingway and Sherwood Anderson.

Mr. Webb was a member of The Screen Writers Guild, the National Association of Book Editors, the American Institute of Graphic Arts, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Writers' Guild of America. Surviving him, in addition to his widow, are a son, Jon Edgar Webb Jr. of Los Angeles; a sister, Mrs. Mary Weiner of Kansas City, Mo.; and a brother, William Webb of Plantation, Fla.

A Note

As a little mag editor and a collector of little mags, I regard Jon and Gypsy Lou Webb's THE OUTSIDER as the most effective little mag of the 1960s. This special edition of WORMWOOD was conceived as a series of "comments" from three generations -- Henry Miller, a first generation outsider and now part of the Playboy establishment; Charles Bukowski, a second generation outsider still outside the lit establishment and unknown to Playboy; and Marcus Grapes, third generation outsider and generally unknown to all but little mag readers. Lastly, with the kind permission of Gypsy Lou, we are re-discovering a story by Jon, himself. It first appeared in THE NEW DAY, a prison magazine.

It is important to all of us hooked on the printed word that outsiders persist and are sustained.

-- Marvin Malone 12/23/71